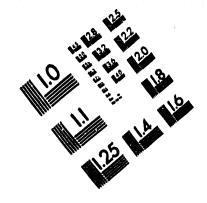
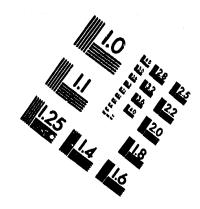
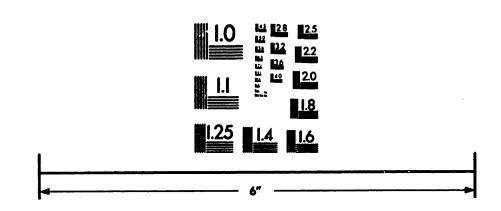
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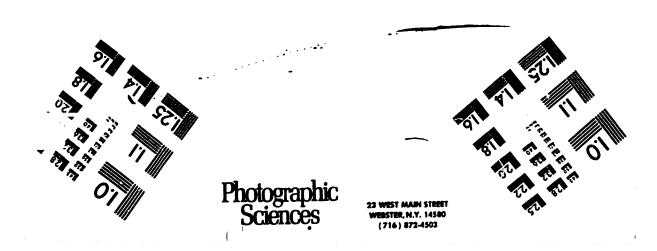
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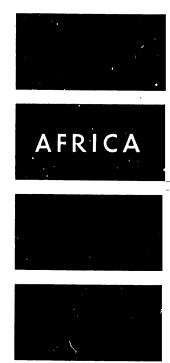






JPRS L/8375 5 April 1979

TRANSLATIONS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA FOUO No. 628



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TRANSLATIONS ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

FOUO No. 628

CONTENTS	PAGE	ı
INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS		
Africa Realizes Ineffectiveness of One-Party Systems (Siradiou Diallo; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 21 Feb 79)	1	
E!.F-Aquitaine Projects in Africa (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 16 Feb 79)	3	-
Briefs		
French Fear Unrest EDF Financing	6	
Consider Break With PRC	6 6	
ANGOLA		
UNTA Labor Role, Objectives Analyzed		
(Augusta Conchiglia; AFRIQUE-ASIE, 5 Mar 79)	7	
CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE		
Briefs		
Diamond, Precious Stones Regulations	10	
Cotton Ginning Plant	10	
Roads Fund	10	
Direct Flight to Gabon	10	
CHAD		•
French Imperialism Believed To Be Cause of Clashes		
(Man Gue; AFRIQUE-ASIE, 5-18 Mar 79)	11	

- a - [III - NE & A - 122 FOUO]

CONTENTS (Continue	ed)	Page
EQUATORIAL GUINEA		
Briefs Afr	rican Development Bank Loan	14
GABON		
	tions on Agriculture of PDG Congress Listed ARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 9 Feb 79)	15
Briefs Bel	linga Iron Ore Reserves	16
GUINEA		
	arms To Be Established for Modernizing Agriculture FRIQUE-ASIE, 5 Mar 79)	17
LIBERIA		
===	esident's French Visit Scheduled ench Reciprocal Investment Agreement	18 18
MALI		
	Mineral Resources Attract Investors ohamed Maiga; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 14 Feb 79)	19
Briefs Pro	obable Uranium, Oil Deposits	21
RHODESIA		
	mies, Mercenaries Compound Confusion in Rhodesia arious sources, 14, 5 Feb 79)	22
	owth of Private Armies, by Francois Soudan rcenaries Reported by OAU	
Briefs	rcenaries Recruited	25

- b -

APPROVED FOR RELEASE: 2007/02/08: CIA-RDP82-00850R000100040011-4

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CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	
Details on International French Assistance Provided (MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 9 Feb 79)	26
Nation Said To Have More Debts Than Any Black African Country (Francisco Vergara; JEUNE AFRIQUE, 21 Feb 79)	27

- c -

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

AFRICA REALIZES INEFFECTIVENESS OF ONE-PARTY SYSTEMS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 21 Feb 79 p 70

[Article by Siradiou Diallo: "The Worm Is in the Fruit"]

[Text] Africa had become accustomed to a system of elections without surprises: "Candidates" appointed by the authorities in accordance with criteria that were often quite irrational, winners of plebiscites with scores close to 100 percent, chosen by a prefabricated electoral body, politically badly educated, insufficiently informed and completely "anesthetized." This system is aimed at making the people, who are so much spoken of in official speeches, into absolutely nothing in actual fact; for it is the chief who is everything. The result: the people become less and less interested in public affairs, whereas the leaser floats in the splendid isolation of his authority, at the risk of sinking into the general lethargy at the slightest impact.

Nearly 30 years of this solitary exercise of power have motivated certain leaders here and there, it appears, to cast a thoughtful glance at their actions and to think about emerging from this cocoon, which, though walled with silk, remains a fragile and even dangerous habitat. Thus on 8 February, the meeting of the central committee of the Congolese Labor Party (the sole political party) awakened a profound and lengthy democratic debate. The debate terminated with the defeat of the head of state, General Yhombi Opango, by his challenger, Colonel Denis Sassou Nguesso. A capital event in the political maturation process of the nations of our continent. For this was the first time in the history of Africa that an incumbent president was dramatically removed from office by a regular vote of his

But to be seen in its full significance, the Congolese affair must be compared with similar happenings elsewhere. Thus at the end of January, the convention of the Gabonese Democratic Party

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gave rise to critical debates that became particularly bitter at times. And the members of the party's central committee were ultimately chosen from among a group of several candidates.

At the same time, the Zairian deputies were giving one another strong signals in the form of peremptory questions and harsh criticism directed against Government officials. They even went so far as to reject the budget proposal presented by the latter.

Coming after the multipartite experiences of Senegal, Upper Volta and Gambia, and especially after the announcement of the imminent sign-over of power to the civil sector in Ghana and Nigeria, the process of democratization is proving to be irreversible. It is even tending to become a fashionable phenomenon, just as was the single-party system at the beginning of the sixties.

Of course, the advocates of the single party will not allow themselves, without a struggle, to be deprived of the fruit on which they have been nibbling for what will soon be 20 years. But there is no longer any doubt that henceforth they will be on the defensive, whereas the partisans of the democratic confrontation of ideas and options have a favorable wind behind them. Of course, the struggle will continue for several more years; but with the increasingly involved economic difficulties faced by the nations of Africa, it is certain that the time of resignation to the status quo is over, and that in Africa, too, we are on the eve of great socio-political uphenvals. On the outcome of this confrontation depends both the future of the continent and the outlook of its people, who are more than ever enamored of democracy and social justice.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ELF-AQUITAINE PROJECTS IN AFRICA

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 16 Feb 79 p 438

[Text] In spite of a considerable decrease in its total volume of investments and bank financing, the ELF-Aquitaine National Company (SNEA) has played the African card in a decisive way during 1978.

Nearly one quarter of the group's "exploration" budget (572 million france out of a total of 2.15 billion) has been spent in black Africa (as opposed to 30 percent in France and Europe). The acquisition of a number of exploration permits (including three in Miger, two in Mali, and one in Senegal) has opened new perspectives. In addition, the discovery of hydrocarbons in Gabon and another smaller find in Nigeria along with new indications of gas in Cameroon have stimulated the national company's activities.

Reviewing 1978 operations for the press on 31 January 1979, Mr Albin Chalandon, chairman of the group, confirmed this "expansive policy in Africa's green belt. We are betting on this continent's future in petroleum, The majority of our oil is preduced there and we are going to develop our activities in the Gulf of Guinea, in Nigeria as far as the Congo, and soon in Angola. At the same time," he added, "we are engaged in the interior sections of Africa: Mauritania, Gambia, and Chad, with prospects for new exploration permits."

ELF-Aquitaine has great hopes for North Africa. Negotiations already underway with Algeria may be concluded this year. Current efforts in Morocco will be stepped up. The only question is what will be the repercussions of the border dispute between Tunisia and Libya.

Another SMEA innovation during 1978 was the setting up of a mere systematic trade mechanism with Nigeria known as "compensatory purchases." This system, favored by the French minister of industry, involves exchanging production and petroleum purchases from the Third World countries for sales of French materials, technology, and services. The agreement, which will be signed in Lagos, makes particular provision for participation by other French industries in addition to the petroleum industry.

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The fellowing is a recapitulation of the 1978 report and prospects for the current year for exploration (petroleum and mineral) and production, by country:

North Africa

In Egypt the North Alexandria offshore exploration permit has resulted in two discoveries of condensed gas. Gas has been found also in Libya. In Tunisia development work is continuing on the Ashtart deposit. In addition, an agreement went into effect on 6 February 1978 between the gevernment of Tunisia and the Tunisian Petroleum Activities Enterprise (ETAP) on the one hand and SNEA on the other. ETAP thus acquired a 50 percent interest in the permit to explore the Gulf of Gabes and in the Ashtart concession. Also, Serept has been converted into a Franco-Tunisian partnership for overseeing work related to all of SNEA's exploration permits in Tunisia.

Black Africa

In Gabon the decline in the groups Gabonese production has begun to appears 9.1 million tons in 1978 compared to 9.7 million tons in 1977. From 61 million cubic meters in 1977 the production of gas has fallen to 56 million in 1977 [sic]. Nevertheless, SNEA-ELF Gabon's overall exploration efforts have been maintained at a higher level than in 1977. The mining sector has increased its activities thanks to the acquisition of new permits, particularly the Pegara permit, and by the obtaining of additional participation in regions of south Gabon and Libraville which are judged to be particularly interesting. A test bore at the small ocean field of Baliste has confirmed the company's interest; it is planned to place it in operation in May of 1980.

In the Congo exploration of the sea has resumed. Drilling at the Madingo permit has revealed the presence of gas. Production at the Emeraude deposit has risen to 1.4 million tons and its previous decline has been stabilised. Development of the Loange deposit is almost complete: from 1 million tons in 1978, it is expected that production will reach 1.5 million in 1979. Production at the Likouala deposit should begin toward the middle of 1980.

In Cameroon, 20 drillings have confirmed suspected petroleum and gas deposits at the Rio del Rey permit and, to a lesser extent, at the Lokele permit. Production at Ekoundou-Seuth began last October. The bed at Betika should be placed in production this month and the one at Kole soon after. Also, a drilling platform will be installed at Kombo. Production in 1978 was on the order of 0.6 million tons.

In Nigeria, ELF-Nigeria has made an offshore discovery at the Otuc South 1 drilling site. Production in 1978 rose to 3.4 million tens of crude including 1.9 million tens produced by its partner the National Nigerian Petroleum Company NNNPC). ELF-Nigeria handled the marketing of all of this production as well as an additional 1 million tens bought back by NNPC. Production should begin to fall this year.

Other Explorations in Black Africa

In Mali an agreement has been signed giving SNEA a 50 percent interest in the Gao permit. Two other permits have been granted (Macina and Aracuane). Drilling at Ansongo has just begun.

In Niger three permits (West Niger, Bilma, and Manga) were assigned last November.

The signing of an agreement with Senegal on 9 January 1978 has resulted in an exploration permit for the Dicurbel and Ziguincher regions.

The test bore at Simba in Kenya was completed on 19 March 1978 without results. On the other hand, ELF-Somalia has announced its intention to return the exploration permits that it holds (Ras Binah and Kisimayo). In the Seychelles, SNEA has acquired a 25 percent interest in an organization investigating five offshore blocks.

Southern Africa

4.5

In Namibia, promising results have been obtained at Aussinanis and Tubas with a total potential of 6,000 tons of uranium 308. The quantities are small but the conditions for mining favorable.

In the South African Republic, where ELF-Aguitaine is associated with African Selection Trust Exploration and Dresser Minerals International Inc, a small deposit of block sulphur with high concentrations of sinc and silver has been discovered.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

FRENCH FEAR UNREST--The rise of a new axis of destabilization in Africa, extending from Addis Abeba to Brazzaville, where the pro-Soviet forces seem to be asserting their power, is feared in French diplomatic circles. Between the two "red" capitals lies a vast region of disturbance: Chad, the Central African Empire, Zaire and Sudan. In the case of the latter, France especially fears the action of the communists and the separatists (in the southern part of the country), who enjoy the support of the Ethiopians. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 21 Feb 79 p 26] 8117

EDF FINANCING—within the framework of the ACP/EEC [African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries/European Economic Community] Lone agreement, the European Development Funds Committee has just given its approval for the financing of the following seven projects: Malawi: grants of 7.9 million european monetary units for the rural development program and 2.3 million european construction; Betswana: a grant of 1.835 million units for a service to benefit livestock owners in the communal zones; Swaziland: grants of 2.5 million units for the Nhlango normal school; Niger: a grant of 2.1 million units for secondary general education schools in Kolo, Loga, and Madaroumga; Cameroon: a grant of 2.5 million units for the equipping of six colleges and industrial technical instruction, 57 craft sections and 35 domestic science sections; Zambia: 4.55 million for a long term training program (1976-1980). [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 16 Feb 79 p 432] 7779

CONSIDER BREAK WITH PRC--Consultations have begun among certain nonalined African countries with a view to suspending their diplomatic relations with China if the latter continues its aggression against Vietnam. "The time has come," an African head of state has cabled some of his colleages, "to envisage taking reprisal measures against a power which claims to be a member of the third world but which pursues a military superpower policy...." [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 5-18 Mar 79 p 50 LD]

CSO: 4400

ANGOLA

UNTA LABOR ROLE, OBJECTIVES ANALYZED

Paris AFRIQUE - ASIE in French 5 Mar 79 pp 22, 23

[Article by Augusta Conchiglia: "Let the Workers Speak"]

[Text] The new UNTA [National Union of Workers of Angola] leadership is accomplishing a twofold task: defending the workers' interests and, above all, awakening their political awareness.

With the object of restructuring and democratizing the country, the Assembly elected by the Angolan people will, in the near future, replace the Revolutionary Council. It is within this same framework that the organization (already well advanced) of the Angolan union, the UNTA, is proceeding. The UNTA will be responsible for "the political guaranty of the rights of all the Angolan workers."

All those who work, whether or not they belong to the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], can (and must) belong to this labor organization, which will include several professional branches. In fact, at the October 1978 meeting, President Agostinho Neto declared, "The labor organizations must voice not only the desires and viewpoints of the MPLA membership. The workers will be able to discuss and judge freely the decisions of the party, so that the latter will not have too theoretical and purely formal a view of the practical problems that arise at the base."

The 500,000 Angolan wage-earners will thus all be represented next May, in the capital and in the provinces, by 10 elected union commissions, each covering a specific sector: agriculture, coffee, construction, health, public administration and services, heavy industry, light industry, food industry, fishing, education and culture, and social matters.

Since a large number of enterprises are already nationalized (and there will be many more) and since the state has chosen the socialist way, the leaders of the UNTA will be able to take part in the meetings of the highest organs of the executive apparatus: the Secret Council of Ministers and

the Revolutionary Council. There they will express the concerns and aspirations of the workers and see to it that the legal norms regarding wages, working conditions and production are respected.

The UNTA in the process of organization had, during the restructuration which was to neutralize the fractionalists, already requested a change in its relationship to the state, so that its different branches would no longer appear simply "as an appendix of each ministry." The fractionalists had watered down the role of the unions, likening it to that of government administrative organs, which constrained the operation of certain enterprises. To clearly distinguish itself from the state and assure its economic independence, the UNTA collects dues from all workers equal to 1 percent of their wages.

Produce More

As a result, the UNTA will be able to finance all its activities, and especially the education and training of basic cadres.

Thus strengthened and reorganized, the UNTA (whose leadership is 85 percent workers from productive sectors and whose membership cannot include any government employee) is beginning to implement the law of July 1977 on the administration of state enterprises, which provides for compulsory unionization of the workers. When unionization succeeds—which is not always the case—the results are more than satisfactory.

Thus, the Luanda textile factory (the Textang), which employs 1,200 workers, is producing at the same level today as before the war. When an enterprise cannot maintain its productive level, the causes of its malfunction can, at the very least, be determined (low wages, onerous working conditions, indiscipline, etc.) and an effort made to remedy them.

The distribution of staples and essential goods in production centers still poses an urgent problem which the new UNTA leadership is determined to resolve by opening or reopening cooperatives, run by the workers and which will receive 65 percent of the stocks available to the Ministry of Commerce as regards clothing and household electrical appliances. As for foodstuffs, the supply, which is still irregular and inadequate, will be maintained by the state warehouses and supervised by the UNTA. On coffee plantations, which employ 98 percent of the agricultural work force, a distribution is already in operation.

As regards the social injustices that still exist ("I note," said Agostinho Neto during a meeting in Cabinda, "that a skilled worker earns less than a stenographer. That is inadmissible."), they are already the concern of a UNTA commission which is recommending to the Labor Ministry the solutions advocated by the president: "Favor those who produce the country's wealth and get rid of the privileged ones of the parasitic sector." Much remains to be done in this domain, and to resolve the problems it will not be sufficient to simply increase wages. That, on the contrary, would give rise to an inflation which would benefit the speculators. What is needed is to produce more.

The UNTA (joined to the party, since Pascoal Luvualu, member of the political bureau, was elected to the new leadership) must therefore accomplish the twofold task of protecting the interests of the workers and developing a political awareness among them such that they will dedicate themselves to the national reconstruction.

This second task is neither the least important nor the least urgent. President Neto himself has said it: "To achieve the socialist objective, the labor organizations must fulfill an educational role of enormous importance." And he added: "So long as there remain in our country socialist as well as capitalist enterprises, so long as there subsist private production sectors, so long as there remains collectivization to be accomplished, particularly in the fields, it is absolutely essential, it is vital that Angolan workers be imbued with the advantages and the necessity of socialism."

It is up to the UNTA to fulfill this mission.

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

BRIEFS

DIAMOND, PRECIOUS STONES REGULATIONS—By imperial decree of 24 January 79, it is forbidden that managers and directors of diamond purchasing agencies sell or purchase gold or precious stones outside of their officially recognized office. Violators risk a fine of 50 to 500 million CFA francs and confiscation of the stones figuring in the transaction. The secret sale of diamonds was one of the main reproaches made by Emperor Bokassa I to the Lebanese nationals. In addition, by decreee of 9 January 79, the Yangou-Diamant company was authorized to open an office in Bangui for the purchase of precious stones. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 327/ 9171

COTTON GINNING PLANT--In Bambari, on 14 January, while touring Ouaka, Dr Abdoul, Central African Empire minister of agriculture, inaugurated a new cotton ginning plant of the UCCA /Central African Empire Cotton Union/. This plant, costing the UCCA 180 million CFA francs, will be able to treat 25,000 metric tons of cotton seed annually. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX. ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 327/ 9171

ROADS FUND--A contribution to the Road Maintenance Fund was established by ordinance on 9 January 79. This contribution will be levied on fuel sales and deposited in a bank account by Centra-Hydro. At the money-lender's meeting on road maintenance, held at Bangui in April 1977, it was foreseen that the Central African government would form a Road Maintenance Fund of 500 million CFA francs. Up to now, this fund has not been financed due to lack of available funds in the Treasury. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 327/ 9171

DIRECT FLIGHT TO GABON--A direct flight to Gabon was opened 13 January by CENTRAFRICAIR. CENTRAFRICAIR will guarnatee this flight each weekend and will give preferential rates to travelers making a round trip during the weekened. The opening of this line was decided at the occasion of Marshal Bokassa's visit to Gabon in October 1976. /Text/ /Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 327/ 9171

CSO: 4400

CHAD

FRENCH IMPERIALISM BELIEVED TO BE CAUSE OF CLASHES

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 5-18 Mar 79 pp 20, 21

Article by Man Gue7

Text Are we headed toward a partitioning of the country in accordance with the wishes of the Elysee?

After the murderous confrontations which brought N'Djamena to the point of fire and blood in February, anxiety persists in Chad, where peope live with the obsession of a resumption or extension of hostilities.

The Habre-Malloum operation, which commentators describe as relevant to opposition between the Moslem people of the North and the animist people of the South, contains a much deeper significance, which, to be sure, efforts are being made to hide. The fact is that the interests at stake are too important and France's role too decisive in order for the cards not to be shuffled by every means possible.

However, the general political crisis which Chadian society is experiencing and the various attempts to Balkanize it are far from being satisfied by a brief analysis misrepresenting the facts and reducing them to a hatred among peoples whose coexistence would be made possible only by French presence.

The underlying causes of the long crisis splitting Chad must be sought beyond immediate appearances in the general process of the penetration of French imperialism into this country. The sad spectacle presented by the N'Djamena conflicts, encouraged by Paris, cannot be understood by passing over this reality in silence.

In fact, colonization and then the formal independence of the 1960's have led to unequal but joint development of the country's various regions, thus causing a change in the socio-economic structures of certain regions while permitting others to continue to function with outmoded structures.

This contradiction, which began as early as 1926 with the introduction of forced cotton planting, permitted the emergence of capitalist relations in the whole of the cotton areas and, at the same time, that of a local political

class. It is in these areas that industries are installed (half of them being located in P'Djamena) providing for the processing of the cotton and replacing former imports of foodstuffs.

In other areas, where the people traditionally practice nomadic stock breeding, colonialism was content to take a share of the stock without making an effort to install any kind of infrastructure. This is true to the extent that social relations did not undergo any appreciable change. The problem is still more apparent in an area like the P.E.T.* whose economy is limited to the production of dates, salt and natron and the raising of goats and camels.

It is this situation of structural imbalance, which took place at the time of colonization and which is still going on, that some observers describe as opposition between the North--including all of the areas having precapitalist structures--and the South, which produces the cotton.

On the political level, this imperialist division of work resulted in 1960 in handing the central power over to the original political class of the cotton-raising areas. In this manner, France was hoping to muzzle the growing anger of the peasants, who had been promised the climination of forced labor on the cotton plantations. At the same time, the minor economic importance the other regions held for the France of that era resulted in the absence of any strong alliance between the feudality of those regions and the political class of the cotton-raising areas.

This fact was illustrated by the political crisis the country was destined to experience at that time. In fact, from 13 March 1957 to 23 August 1962 there were eight successive governments in Chad, which, at the same time, experienced three cabinet reshuffles. The year 1963 was marked by a confrontation between the supporters of the original ministers of the neglected regions and the supporters of Tombalbaye--backed by French troops at the time. This was the breaking point of the fragile alliance.

This obvious failure of French policy was destined to be brought to light with the unleashing of the armed conflict of 1965. The establishment of FROLIMAT /Chadian National Liberation Front/, whose geographic implantation embraces all the areas which do not raise cotton, being three-fifths of the national territory and one-third of the total population, was an answer to that situation.

In this connection and beyond anti-imperialist intentions, the emergence of armed opposition makes it necessary to revamp the country's geopolitical map as a whole.

This requirement is all the more imperative, since French imperialism, then prey to a dreadful crisis, is less and less inclined to support a war effort

^{*} Borkou, Ennedi, Tibesti.

which is weighing more and more heavily on its treasury. With the Boussac failure, the importance of cotton (which represents 80 percent of Chad's exports) is relegated to secondary status in the concerns of the French industrialists, who do not conceal their increasing interest in the exploitation of the immense resources hidden in the country's subsoil. This explains many things, when one considers that, at the present time, the American company, Conoco, associated with Shell and Chevron, have a monopoly on the research and exploitation of oil in Ghad. And also when one considers that uranium and many other resources, which Paris now thinks it is time to develop, have been discovered in the areas controlled by FROLINAT.

In these circumstances, how can one be astonished about the political and military support the Elysee has granted both Malloum and the former jailer of the Claustre couple? Although the aboutface of Paris in regard to Hissene Habre last August had aroused some surprise and rancor, it appears that this tactic is now enjoying increasingly greater support by French industrial and financial circles despite obvious hostility by the French secret services, who are not formetting the decisive role played by Habre in the assassination of their comrade-in-arms, Commander Calopin. In any case, the objectives which the Elysee was trying to achieve at that time through the appointment of Hissene Habre to the position of prime minister were hindered by the Malloum-Habre conflict and made it necessary for the French leaders to impose a compromise solution, obviously temporary and illusive, based on a precarious cease-fire.

The Ciscard Solution

However, in the background of this operation there is already another plan which Paris is trying to get accepted—by gunshot for the moment. It is the federalism solution about which Nr Giscard d'Estaing spoke but which, in fact, would end up partitioning the country. Moreover, it will be noted that Hissene Habre, who only recently presented himself as a great patriotic defender of Chadian territorial integrity, was careful not to take any stand on this matter.

Feanwhile, here and now, the N'Djamena confrontations, the fierce resistance of Lieutenant Colonel Kamoungue and, still more, intensification of the offensives of armed opposition in the central-eastern part of the country make it apparent that peace is not imminent. Likewise, all these maneuvers dreamed up in the wings could be for the purpose of confusing the protagonists still more.

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

BRIEFS

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOAN--The BAD $/\overline{\text{A}}$ frican Development Bank/ granted its first loan to Equatorial Guinea on 21 December of last year. This loan of 6.6 million units of account, or about 1,886 million CFA frances, is earmarked for financing of a project for reclamation of cacao plantations. It carries interest of 7 percent (plus commission) with a term of 25 years. The project aims to renovate 5,500 hectares of cacao plantations, of which 500 hectares are small, family plantations. It constitutes the first part of the program proposed by the Equatorial Guinea Government to give a new impetus to the cocoa industry. This project will be carried out over a period of 3 years, beginning in 1979. It will be followed immediately by a replanting program. This second phase of the total program will be financed with revenue from the first part. The project will be administered by a semi-autonomous office, the creation of which will ensure general supervision by the intermediary of a management unit. Operations foreseen in the framework of the project are as follows: 1) acquisition of machines and equipment, 2) construction of buildings, 3) restoration of processing plants, 4) acquisition of agricultural production supplies, including fungicides, and fertilizers, 5) creation of food crops, and 6) technical assistance and formation. Total cost of the project is valued at nearly 15 million units of account, which will be financed by the BAD (6.6 million) and by the government of Equatorial Guinea (8.4 million). The BAD loan will serve to finance the total project costs in foreign currency and part of the costs in local currency relating to the equipment, buildings, restoration of process-plants, and agricultural production supplies. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS IN French 9 Feb 79 p 3277 9171

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14

GABON

RECOMMENDATIONS ON AGRICULTURE OF PDG CONGRESS LISTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 327

 $\sqrt{\mathrm{Text}/}$ During the second special congress of the Gabonese Democratic Party (PDG), held in Libreville 24-27 January (MTM, 2 February 1979, p 282), the economic policy committee drafted a resolution partially critical of past performance in that area and proposing a future line of action. The main parts of the resolution are: "1. Whereas directed and planned economic liberalism, the pillare of our economic policy since 1960, has triggered and sustained a savage capitalism that has had bad and harmful effects on the economic, social and cultural development of our country; 2. Whereas democratic, concerted progressionism (the doctrine of president Bongo) was born from our awareness and will to better control the economy in order to have better command over and provide better guidance to our expansion in the national interest; (...); 5. Whereas guarantees for balanced, sustained development rest mainly on rational exploitation of our perennial resources; (...) 10. Aware of the need to lay down a new economic and social development strategy; (...), The second special congress of the Gabonese Democratic Party recommends that the central committee, the political bureau and the government take the necessary steps with a view to introducing new orientations to continue the development of basic infrastructures and foster investments in the productive sectors.'

The resolution then calls upon those institutions to "reaffirm the priority nature of agriculture in our country's development and to implement the goals of the third agricultural plan.

"For this purpose they should undertake action as soon as possible to: increase food production and exports; raise the standard of living of the farmers; promote integrated agro-industrial operations earmarked to obtain foreign exchange; guarantee the education, motivation and training of peasants and farmers; allow the creation of production and marketing cooperatives; facilitate the regrouping of villages."

The economic policy commission also asks the party and government to "promote the emergence of a genuine class of national entrepreneurs, artisans and merchants."

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15

GABON

1

BRIEFS

BELINGA IRON ORE RESERVES--A study evaluating exploitable iron ore reserves in Belinga based on 1977 drillings shows the existence of 300 million tons of low-phosphorus iron ore which could be exploited at a rate of production of 7.5 to 10 million tons per year. Gabon's Minister of Mines Mbouy-Boutzit received the representatives of the Austrian VOEST-ALPINE Company on 23 February; this company is reportedly interested in participating in the capital of the SOMIFER [Mekambo Iron Mines Company] which will be in charge of exploiting the Belinga mines when the Transgabonese Railroad will be completed. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Mar 79 p 637]

CSO: 4400

-7

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GUINEA

DISTRICT FARMS TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR MODERNIZING AGRICULTURE

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 5 Mar 79 p 50

[Text] In accordance with the decisions of the 11th congress of the Democratic Party of Guinea, President Ahmed Sekou Toure has announced that his country will launch a green revolution with the establishment of district agricultural and animal farms (FAPA) designed to modernize its agriculture.

"These farms," said Guinea's leader, "will enable Guinea to become self-sufficient in food and to achieve a surplus designed to finance its equipment. The yields from about 500,000 hectares of cultivated land in Guinea out of its 7,400,000 cultivable hectares are poor and compel the country to import substantial quantitites of foodstuffs paid for in hard currencies. These yields amount to between 500 kilograms and 1 ton per hectare of husked rice, compared to 15 tons in other countries."

The FAPAs will build their own water supply and management systems to achieve two or three crops per year. The district agricultural and animal farms will be staffed by cadres graduating from Guinea's agricultural colleges.

In this regard, the chief of state said that "the number of engineers and engineering assistants will be increased to 3,000 in 1979 (compared to 1,700 in 1978) and to 4,000 the following year, to reach 4,500 in 1981." Besides, 8,000 new students, that is, 70 percent of the high school graduates, have enrolled this year in agricultural colleges.

As regards the 20 million dollars granted by the EEC [European Economic Community], they will be used to finance equipment for small projects designed especially for water control

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LIBERIA

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT'S FRENCH VISIT SCHEDULED--On 6 February, during his dinner with Cecil Dennis, Liberian minister of foreign affairs, Olivier Stirn, secretary of state for foreign affairs, announced that President Tolbert would make an official visit to France at the end of March. Stirn stressed the importance of the agreement which had just been signed concerning the guarantee of French investments in Liberia (see below). He recalled that the English-speaking country would be represented for the first time by an observer at the French-African summit at Kigali, and also that President Tolbert would be the next president of the OAU. Also present at the dinner were Simone Weil, minister of health, and Jean-Pierre Prouteau, secretary of state for small industry. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 323/9171

FRENCH RECIPROCAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENT—A delegation led by Mr Candessus, director of the Bureau of International Affairs under the Treasury Directorate, visited Liberia in late January and on 26 January drew up an agreement for reciprocal promotion and protection of investments. This agreement marks the opening of a new chapter in the economic and financial relations between the two countries. It is also of interest that Cecil Dennis, Liberian minister of foreign affairs with whom the delegation had met at Monrovia, visited Paris this week on a trip which will also take him to Madrid. /Text//Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 324/9171

CSO: 4400

13

MALI

PETROLEUM, MINERAL RESOURCES ATTRACT INVESTORS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE No 954 in French 14 Feb 79 pp 38, 39

/Article by Mohamed Maiga/

/Text/ Will Mali become the priority target for foreign investors in the 1980's? One might think so to judge by the new interest they are showing in the agriculture and subsoil of a country classified among the poorest in the world.

Before being penalized by 3 years of drought (1972-1974), Mali had tried to recapture its place as the traditional breadbasket of West Africa, an arduous task which required foreign aid that was as niggardly as the country was poorly managed. Only the agro-industrial complex of the Niger Office in Segou and the CMDT (Malian Textile Company) attracted foreign lenders. Since 1973, however, studies have shown that Mali, crossed from west to east for a distance of 1,700 km by the Niger and its many tributaries and watered in the west by the Senegal, offered great agricultural potential.

That was all that was needed for the country to be turned into a vast farm work camp watched over by the EEC, IMF, the World Bank, Canadian assistance, the socialist countries, China, the Development Bank of the Republic of Mali (BDRM) and SCAER (Farm Credit and Rural Equipment Company).

Rural Development operations are under way in the country's seven administrative regions, linking money crops (peanuts, cotton, tobacco, tea, sugar cane, etc.) with food products (rice, sorghum, market garden crops, etc.). Results are encouraging and are causing enthusiasm on the part of the peasants, making a French expert from the World Bank say that "in a few years Mali's peasants have changed their thinking in a way it took the European peasant a century to do." Grazing lands, 60 percent of which were destoryed between 1972 and 1974, are well on the way to reconstitution thanks mainly to Libyan and Algerian aid. Private American groups are working on ranch projects in the regions of Mopti, Tombouctou and Gao.

True expectations, however, are focused on the subsoil. Their names are uranium, oil and bauxite.

In Ansongo, in the far northwest of the country, the office of Ibrahima Sylla, the 30-year-old circle commander, is scarecely ever empty. He is making a careful recruitment of dozens of volunteers to mine the uranium deposits which, according to some reports, will get underway in the early 1980's. In that region of Gao (the northwest), the Japanese company Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Company (PNC) has been prospecting since 1974. The effort has paid off. In the Kidal circle, the same company has updated some deposits that, combined with those in Ansongo, are an extension of the ore in the Nigerien Sahara. There is likely also some on the Volta border. COGEMA (Nuclear Materials General Company), with ties with the French nuclear energy commissariat, has discovered other still more important deposits near Taoudenit in the 16th region and Kenieba (Kayes region) near the Guinea border. The Malian deposits are probably among the largest active mines in Africa, but the figures are carefully suppressed.

Oil prospecting, in which several Western companies have invested almost 2 billion Malian francs, is mainly an achievement of the French company ELF Aquitaine, with Texaco and the British company Murphy involved in prospecting in the northwest. The only remaining problem for study is pipelining it to the coast. As far as the oil companies are concerned, it is understood the price for crude would justify construction of pipelines.

Bauxite deposits are probably much greater today than former estimates (750 million tons) indicated. Pechiney (France), Alusuisse (Switzerland) and China are interested in deposits localized in the south and southwest (kayes region, which also has iron ore) not far from the Guinean border in the area where the Manantali dam will be built within the framework of OMVS (Senegal River Development Organization).

The Office of Geological and Mining Research (BRGM, France) is surveying gold potential near Kayes. In the past, the Soviets have been mining the large gold reserves in Kalana, near Sikasso, living there in isolation. They are no doubt still there, while other "technical advisers" prefer the open spaces of Tombouctou or Gao, attracted by oil, uranium or bauxite.

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MALI

BRIEFS

FROBABLE URANIUM, OIL DEPOSITS--Bamako--Although it is not yet sure that uranium and oil explorations in Mali have achieved conclusive results, persistent rumors continue to circulate in certain foreign circles in Bamako, according to which "auspicious developments" are to be expected. The Japanese company PNC [expansion unknown] is exploring for uranium in the region of Kidal, while drilling operations are being carried out in Ansongo by the Elf-Aquitaine company. According to the Malian minister of Industrial Development and Tourism, Mr Lamine Keita, it is premature as yet to affirm the existence or nonexistence of uranium or oil reserves in Mali. However, many French and Malian technicians have always believed their existence to be "almost certain," based on studies carried out during the French colorial era. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 5 Mar 79 p 10] 9399

CSO: 4400

21

RHODESIA

PRIVATE ARMIES, MERCENARIES COMPOUND CONFUSION IN RHODESIA

Growth of Private Armies

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 14 Feb 79 p 33

[Article by Francois Soudan]

[Text] After a heated referendum held against a backdrop of war, "Rhodesia-Zimbabwe" was the new official name chosen by Ian Smith and his starf for the former Rhodesia. On Tuesday 30 January, 90,000 white voters were asked to speak out on a draft constitution providing for a shift of the theoretical power to the black majority, starting in May. A power in name only, which is opposed by the guerilla fighters of the Patriotic Front, insofar as the key posts (army, police, government and economy) will remain in white hands. The result of this referendum (nearly 85 percent of "yes" votes) was surprising because of its wide margin: the proposed constitution, which had been represented by Ian Smith as a last chance to prevent Rhodesia's total isolation on the international scene, had indeed been strongly opposed by followers of Rollo Hayman, a former interior minister and head of the extremists.

Warlords

This is undoubtedly a personal victory for Smith, which paves the way for holding the first elections by universal suffrage on 20 April next. But the extremely tense climate surrounding the 30 January elections (generalized curfew, deployment of troops around the polling places, preliminary arrests, etc.) gives a poor prospect of black participation in those clections. And the advent of the private armies as a third component on the Rhodesian military chessboard is quite likely to add even further to the prevailing confusion.

The "case" of the private armies (those paramilitary groups recruited by each of the three moderate black leaders allied to Smith: Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau) recently had a new development when some 100 followers of Abel Murozewa arrived in Salisbury from Libya in late January. They were men whom Colonel Qadhdhafi had agreed to train in 1975, when most Rhodesian nationalists were still gathered under the banner of the ANC (African National Council). When the latter crumbled in 1976, the Libya-trained men remained loyal to Bishop

Muzorewa and refused to join the ranks of the Patriotic Front. For a while Qadhdhafi continued to train them before sending them back to Rhodesia, one small group at a time, but, especially after the internal agreement was signed on 3 March 1978, their presence became too much of an embarrassment. The men who arrived in late January are probably part of the last of those groups. They joined the ranks of some 1500 militiamen of "Muzorewa's 'my" stationed in the "tribal reserves" around Salisbury under the command of a former officer of the Patriotic Front. The Reverend Sithole, another moderate black leader, also has his own troops: more than 1000 men, some of whom are still being trained in Uganda. They are apparently the best equipped and most effective but also the most violent. Led by veritable "warlords," they are leading an autonomous existence in the Western part of the country, living off extortion and terrorizing the villages. In conclusion, Chief Chirau also maintains a small army consisting of 400 to 500 auxiliary troops.

A Shifting Reality

Those armies, made up of young unemployed people, of deserters from the Patriotic Front or the regular Rhodesian army, are reported to control a little over 10 percent of the Rhodesian territory. Since 1977, the Salisbury government has given them free rein. It has even provided them with weapons recovered from Nkomo's and Mugabe's guerilla fighters, although it strongly distrusts them: Indeed there is great permeability between similar ethnic groups, whether they are fighting for the Patriotic Front or against it. In addition, the private armies have sometimes had violent engagements with each other, and the Rhodesian army had to intervene, with some losses. Those private armies, then, do not really constitute a cohesive third force but rather a shifting reality which should probably be taken into account in the Rhodesian imbroglio.

Mercenaries Reported by OAU

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in French 5 Feb 79 p 9

[Text] Dar es-Salaam--There are 13,000 Western mercenaries in the ranks of the Rhodesian army, Mr Nicholas Kuhanga, Tanzanian minister of education, announced as the OAU Liberation Committee opened its 32nd session.

The intensified Rhodesian attacks against Mozambique were on the OAU Liberation Committee's agenda. The committee considered it indispensable to take joint steps to put an end to those crimes committed against the peaceful population of Mozambique. The mercenaries consist of 1,800 Frenchmen, 2,800 Portuguese, 2,500 Americans, 1,500 West Germans, 800 Israelis, and others from various nations, including Great Britain, Australia, Canada etc.

Still on the subject of Rhodesia, the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front categorically rejected the idea of any intervention in Rhodesia of an Anglo-American expeditionary force, to which U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young recently referred. "The Zimbabwe people," the Front declared, "do not need British or American liberators, as they have committed themselves to the task of their own liberation."

23

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Our readers will recall that in an interview with the American magazine NEWS-WEEK, the Tanzanian chief of state himself had recently asked for an Anglo-American military intervention: "One or two battalions," he said, "and in a few days it would be all over..."

The Patriotic Front and the countries in the forefront of the struggle would be well-advised to maintain better coordination between their positions.

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RHODESIA

BRIEFS

MERCENARIES RECRUITED--The recruitment of mercenaries for Rhodesia continues in Europe (especially in Great Britain, France, Spain and Portugal). The "Horribles" are receiving the equivalent of 10,000 FF [French francs] a month paid in South African rands (more than 5,000 FF as an enlistment bonus and 5,000 FF in risk pay). Arriving in Salisbury from Johannesburg, they may receive three possible assignments: soldiering in the regular Rhodesian Army, an officer's berth in the black moderate leaders' militia, or most recently, a post in the training camps for the "Africa Livre" [Free Africa] Commandos, a group made up of Mozambicans hostile to the Maputo Government. [Text] [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 21 Feb 79 p 26] 3117

CSO: 4400

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

DETAILS ON INTERNATIONAL FRENCH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Feb 79 p 327

Text/ Since the proclamation of its independence in 1975, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe has been receiving aid from a number of countries and international institutions, as follows: the USSR, China, Cuba, North Korea, the German Democratic Republic, Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, France, the European Development Fund (EDF), World Bank, and several UN agencies (UNDP, WHO, WMO). The aforementioned socialist bloc countries provide technical assistance mainly for public works, health, defense, and miscellaneous equipment and lending. Swedish aid is concentrated in the health sector.

Under Title VI of FAC (Aid and Cooperation Fund), the French Minister of Cooperation is helping establish a cocoa fumigation center (1.015 billion French francs), which is improving conservation for export of Sao Tome's prinicipal source of foreign exchange. A cold storage facility, costing 770,000 French francs, was also opened in March 1978 within the context of assistance distributed by FAC. In June 1978, also under FAS's Title VI, the decision was made to establish a cultural center on the island (French House) and three cooperating centers with one assistance adviser as part of its technical assistance effort.

Ongoing operations include the following: 1,050 tons of grain, 50 tons of milk, and 200 tons of butter oil in 1979; assistance to the Principe hospital; study to organize a workshop managed by the Industrial Development Center (CDI) in collaboration with the World Bank; provision of public works materials (300,000 ECU /European Currency Unit/); study to set up a brick works. In addition, the EDF was working on future development of fisheries and agriculture (coconut and palm trees).

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ZAIRE

NATION SAID TO HAVE MORE DEBTS THAN ANY BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRY

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 21 Feb 79 p 66

Report on interview with President Mobutu by Francisco Vergara, "The Most Debt-Ridden Country of Black Africa," date of interview not given

/Text/ By the end of 1977 the Zaire public foreign debt amounted to 3.5 billion dollars, of which 2.6 million were actually disbursed. This is the figure alluded to by President Mobutu in our interview.

A number of underdeveloped countries have a larger debt. Among those at the head of the list is Brasil, with 22 billion dollars. But these are countries with an industrial and agricultural production forty or fifty times that of Zaire. In Africa, the most indebted countries are, in order, Algeria, with 9 billion dollars (in 1975), Egypt, with 5.7 billion dollars (in 1975), Zaire, on the same level of indebtedness as Morocco, a country whose revenue is four times higher. Among black African countries, Zaire is by far the most deeply in debt.

The greater part of the Zairian debt was contracted between 1973 and 1975 (2.3 billion), in order to set up a costly understructure. It differs from that of other very poor countries (those which have an annual revenue per inhabitant of less than 265 dollars), in that 60 percent of it was consented to by private banks at high rates of interest. It is therefore very expensive: If the most disinherited countries now pay moderate rates of interest, of about 2.6 percent, Zaire, on the other hand, most disburse very nearly 7 percent in finance charges.

Also, the timing of payments is shorter. In spite of the increase in exports in 1976 and 1977, the country was not able to meet its payments, of which 40 percent were in arrears between 1975 and 1977. The total debt amounts to the equivalent of 16 months of national production.

In 1976 and 1977 Zaire received "oxygen tents" from the International Monetary Fund (268 million dollars) and from Western countries (260 million). It consented to a refinancing of the conditions of repayment on the part of 106 creditor banks, among which Citybank, Morgan, the Credit Commercial of France, the Societe Generale, etc. This was done in exchange for a promise to put into effect an austerity program, which has been several times delayed.

27

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In order to resolve the problem of the debt, a two-tier policy is envisaged:

-a stablization plan has been elaborated by the International Monetary Fund. It calls for a reduction in imports, and a restoration of health to the economy and finance, to be placed under the direction of foreign experts.

-a plan for the development of production, elaborated by the World Bank, which emphasizes the export of minerals.

In the beginning of 1979, the unpaid arrears, according to the FINANCIAL TIMES, amounted to about 700 million dollars. Western countries demonstrated their understanding by advancing 650 million dollars: The International Monetary Fund 30 percent, the United States 15 percent; Belgium 15 percent... But more than 50 percent of the debt is due before 1983. In March, Zaire's creditors and friendly countries will gather again in Brussels to examine the situation in terms of the good will demonstrated by Zaire in the application of the plan elaborated by the International Monetary Fund.

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